

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-05
ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /114 W
-----023629 260824Z /21

O 260725Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8950

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 5027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA TALKS: TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

REF: PRETORIA 5023

1. SUMMARY: AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF OUR DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER 24 REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM NAMIBIA, THE CONTACT GROUP RAISED TWO ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS WITH BOTHA AND FOURIE: THE APPOINTMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, AND WALVIS BAY. THE SOUTH AFRICANS' RESPONSE LEFT A CLEAR INDICATION WE FACE FURTHER PROBLEMS WITH THEM ON THESE MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

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2. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN FIVE, UKUN DEPUTY PERMREP MURRAY REVIEWED THE UNDERSTANDING WE HAD REACHED WITH THE SAG AT CAPE TOWN ABOUT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SATISFY HIMSELF THAT EXISTING LEGISLATION IS NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND DOES NOT IMPEDE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, ELECTORAL LAWS ARE ADEQUATE, POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IS FAIRLY CONDUCTED WITHOUT ANY INTIMIDATION, REGISTRATION IS PROPERLY

CARRIED OUT, AND VOTING IS DONE IN SECRET AND WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE. MURRAY EMPHASIZED THAT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES WRIT CONCERNING THE POLITICAL PROCESS WAS LARGE, INASMUCH AS MANY ASPECTS OF THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION AFFECTED THAT PROCESS.

3. THE SOUTH AFRICANS MADE NO COMMENT UNTIL MURRAY SAID THAT "IN DESCRIBING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE UN CONTEXT, UN INVOLVEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE DESCRIBED AS 'SUPERVISION AND CONTROL'." AT THAT POINT FOURIE ASKED HIM TO REPEAT WHAT HE HAD SAID. MURRAY THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS IN CAPE TOWN, VORSTER HAD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NEVER REFER TO UN INVOLVEMENT IN NAMIBIA AS "SUPERVISION AND CONTROL" OF ELECTIONS, WE COULD USE OUR TERMINOLOGY AND THE SAG WOULD FEEL FREE TO USE ITS OWN. BOTHA AND FOURIE WERE TAUT FACED DURING THIS AND THE REST OF MURRAY'S PRESENTATION, WHICH INCLUDED A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS BY WHICH WE FORESAW THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL.

4. SIGNIFICANTLY, AFTER MURRAY HAD FINISHED, BOTHA POINTEDLY SAID HE WAS SURE THAT VORSTER WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE FOR US ON THIS TOPIC.

5. GERMAN AMBASSADOR EICK THEN BROUGHT UP WALVIS BAY, AND MADE THE POINTS SET FORTH IN USUN 3036:
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A) SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD REFRAIN FROM FURTHER STEPS IN WALVIS BAY WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE CHANCES OF A SETTLEMENT;

B) IF WITHDRAWAL OF SA FROM NAMIBIA LED TO AN INCREASE OF SA MILITARY IN WALVIS BAY, PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT WOULD BE ENDANGERED;

C) IF SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTS THESE CONSIDERATIONS, THE FIVE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO KEEP WALVIS BAY ISSUE FROM IMPEDING A SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY INEVITABLY WILL BE A MAJOR ISSUE BETWEEN SA AND ANY NEW GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 5027

6. IN RESPONSE, BOTH DECLARED THAT WALVIS BAY WAS "SOVEREIGN SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORY" AND THE SAG RESERVED THE RIGHT TO DO WHATEVER IT WISHED THERE, INCLUDING STATIONING "AS MANY TROOPS AS WE LIKE".

7. COMMENT: "SUPERVISION AND CONTROL" WILL REMAIN ANATHEMA TO VORSTER, AND IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE FOR A UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION DESCRIBING THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S RESPONSIBILITIES. MOREOVER, THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIM AND THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL CONTINUES TO BE FUZZY. AS FOR WALVIS BAY, BOTHA'S RESPONSE WAS A KNEE-JERK REACTION. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT COUNT ON IT, THE SAG MAY ACT MORE CAUTIOUSLY THAN HE INDICATED (PRIVATELY, FOURIE TOLD US THAT
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SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE TROOP LEVEL AT WALVIS.) THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR, IF WE MAKE PROGRESS ON OTHER LINES TOWARD A SETTLEMENT, IS THAT BOTH SIDES WILL REFRAIN FROM WORDS OR ACTIONS THAT WILL MAKE WALVIS BAY A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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